

of airport facilities to incorporate in-line baggage screening systems. The TSA has issued 8 LOIs to cover the costs of installing systems at 9 airports for a total cost to the federal government of \$957.1 million over 4 years. The GAO reports that TSA has estimated that in-line baggage screening systems at the 9 airports that received LOI funding could save the federal government \$1.3 billion over 7 years. TSA further estimated that it could recover its initial investment in the in-line systems at these airports in a little over 1 year.

In total, the GAO reports that 86 of 130 airports surveyed are planning or are considering installing in-line baggage screening systems throughout or at a portion of their airports. Moreover, GAO reports that TSA officials have identified 27 additional airports that they believe would benefit from receiving LOIs for in-line systems because such systems are needed to screen an increasing number of bags due to current or projected growth in passenger traffic. TSA officials stated that without such systems, these airports would not remain in compliance with the congressional mandate to screen all checked baggage using EDS or ETD. Yet, the TSA has also acknowledged that it currently does not have sufficient resources in its budget to fund any additional LOIs. While \$650 million is authorized for the installation of in-line baggage screening systems, annual appropriations have not allowed for any new LOIs to be signed.

Our bill will ensure funding for the screening technology we need. We're collecting over \$1.5 billion a year from the passenger security fee. Our bill will put a portion of that fee into two funds that will guarantee that TSA will spend the authorized amount of \$650 million a year and \$250 million for the installation of in-line baggage screening systems and passenger checkpoint explosive detection respectively.

Mr. Speaker, there is overwhelming evidence in the recommendations, findings and statements of the 9/11 Commission, the DHS IG, GAO and TSA that technology is sorely needed to improve security at our airports. We can no longer plead ignorance nor stand idly by and criticize airport screeners working the front line defense in the war on terror. We must demonstrate the leadership and the political will to do what we know is right and deploy technologies that will help our screeners get the job done, and keep the American public safe and secure. I urge my colleagues to join me in working to pass this important legislation.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DONNA WILLIAMS OF CANYON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the numerous accomplishments of Donna Williams, Canyon High School Teacher of the Year.

Donna Williams earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Texas State University in San Marcos. She currently works as an Algebra II and Precalculus teacher in the Comal Independent School District.

Donna Williams believes that creative teaching methods work best for teaching math, especially in grades nine through twelve. Her approach is self-described as "open, loud and fun," allowing for an atmosphere that is friendly and conducive to learning.

She also spends her time teaching leadership skills and sponsoring the Student Council. Leadership and mathematics are two of the most important skills for success in later life, and Donna Williams works hard to ensure that our kids get the education that they need for success.

It is an honor to recognize the accomplishments of Donna Williams, Canyon High School Teacher of the Year. Her unique perspective on learning helps to make Comal Independent School District a better place for our students to learn.

CONGRATULATING THE NORTH SHORE MUSIC THEATRE

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the North Shore Music Theatre at Dunham Woods in Beverly, Massachusetts, which this year is celebrating its fifty-year anniversary.

The North Shore Music Theatre has been entertaining local audiences and visitors since 1955, presenting both classic and innovative musicals in its unique theatre-in-the-round style. When the Theatre first presented *Kiss Me Kate* in the summer of 1955, the audience sat outdoors in canvas seats. Today, theatergoers are entertained in a modern 1,800 seat facility.

For nearly half of its existence, Artistic Director and Executive Producer Jon Kimball has been at the Theatre's helm. In partnership with his dedicated staff and Board of Trustees, Mr. Kimball has turned the North Shore Music Theatre into a nationally-recognized venue, both in terms of its size and the quality of its productions. The theatre was named by *Boston Business Journal* as the 2nd largest performing arts organization in the state for three consecutive years.

As a non-profit organization, the North Shore Music Theatre's mission is to increase the awareness, significance and celebration of musical theater and the performing arts through superb entertainment and educational programs. Each year, the Theatre welcomes 400,000 patrons to its six musical subscription series, an original musical production of *A Christmas Carol* and an acclaimed celebrity concert series. In addition, its award-winning Theatre Arts Academy reaches over 100,000 young people annually, through workshops, outreach and youth performances.

It is appropriate that the House recognize this half-century milestone for the North Shore Music Theatre, which has become one of the anchors of arts and culture in our region. Its contribution to the quality of life for the people of the North Shore and beyond cannot be underestimated.

Congratulations to the North Shore Music Theatre for fifty years of entertainment and education. I'm sure I can speak on behalf of my constituents and neighbors when I say that

we all look forward to sharing in the Theatre's bright future.

RECOGNIZING BOB MANSANARES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Mansanares, one of my fellow Coloradans on the occasion of his retirement from government service. For 32 years Bob has been one of our State's most dedicated public servants.

He began his Federal career in 1973 as a claims representative for the Social Security Administration and went on to become the Regional Director of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs. At the time of his retirement and since July 2001 he has directed the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program.

Bob, born in Del Norte, Colorado, to Martin and Ernestine Mansanares, is the oldest of four siblings. Money was scarce in his home but there was always food, clothing and a roof over his head. Above all he had the things that money cannot buy, love and the support of his family and friends. So while Bob grew up poor he never considered himself a victim or disadvantaged. One of his fondest childhood memories is fishing the streams of the valley with his father. Del Norte is an agricultural rural community and Bob and the family did farm labor as a child, picking potatoes and picking peas for a penny a pound to make ends meet. It was there that Bob acquired his work ethic and his unshakable faith in the working men and women of this country. He went from those humble beginnings to be the first in his family to go to college. In 1968 he was recruited by the Migrant Action Program to attend the University of Colorado at Boulder earning his degree in 1972.

While he was a student in college, Bob was torn between making a lot of money and devoting his life to public service. Fortunately for us, he chose the latter and has spent his entire Federal career in programs that focus on workers benefits and entitlements. He chose to repay in some small measure the debt he felt he owed to the community and to those less fortunate than he. As a former farm worker he became keenly aware of the working poor who had little or no knowledge of the benefits and entitlements available to persons who suffered from work related injuries or disabilities.

Over the course of his 32 year career his work philosophy has always been to make the process easier, to avoid acronyms and technical terminology which many find difficult to understand. Under his purview the process has become more user friendly. This lay approach to claiming benefits has been the key to his many successes. Another of Bob's notable achievements is serving as Commissioner on the Veterans Claims Adjudication Commission to review and write the report of findings, conclusions and recommendations for the disposition of claims to the VA.

The joy of his life has been Mary, his wife of 34 years, and their four children, Nick, Elissa, and David. His oldest daughter, Christie, died tragically in an automobile accident in 2001.